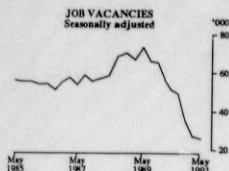


# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 4 July 1991

## *The week in statistics ...*

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## Job vacancies halved in year to May

The estimated number of job vacancies, seasonally adjusted, fell 4.4 per cent from 26,900 in February 1991 to 25,700 in May 1991. This is a decrease of 49.8 per cent compared with May 1990 and it is the lowest estimate since the series was introduced in November 1983.

The job vacancy rate for May 1991 fell to 0.43 per cent from 0.52 per cent in February 1991. (This is the number of vacancies as a proportion of the number of employees plus vacancies).

In original terms, the estimated 14,400 vacancies in the private sector were 11.4 per cent fewer than in February 1991. Vacancies in the public sector decreased by 15.9 per cent to 10,800.

Each State and Territory, except Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, recorded a decrease in the number of job vacancies compared with February 1991. Queensland had the largest decrease (1,800 or 29.4%) while Northern Territory had the largest percentage decrease (45.0%).

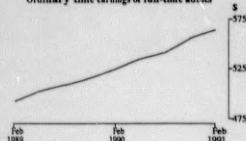
### Overtime

In seasonally adjusted terms, the percentage of employees working overtime fell 4.0 per cent (from 16.85 to 16.19%) between February and May, and the estimate of average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime decreased by 3.6 per cent to 6.88 hours.

### JOB VACANCIES

	At 15 February 1991 To nearest 100	At 17 May 1991 To nearest 100	Percentage change
<b>Original —</b>			
Private sector	16,200	14,400	- 11.4
Public sector	12,800	10,800	- 15.9
<i>All sectors</i>	<i>29,000</i>	<i>25,100</i>	<i>- 13.4</i>
<b>New South Wales</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>- 11.8</b>
Victoria	4,000	3,800	- 3.8
Queensland	6,200	4,400	- 29.4
South Australia	1,900	1,500	- 21.9
Western Australia	2,100	2,100	1.4
Tasmania	700	700	- 0.4
Northern Territory	500	300	- 45.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,700	1,800	6.6
<i>Australia</i>	<i>29,000</i>	<i>25,100</i>	<i>- 13.4</i>
<b>Seasonally adjusted —</b>			
<i>Australia</i>	<i>26,900</i>	<i>25,700</i>	<i>- 4.4</i>

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS  
Ordinary time earnings of full-time adults



## Modest wages growth confirmed by final figures

Final estimates confirm that average weekly ordinary time earnings rose by 1.6 per cent for full-time adults in the three months to February 1991.

The final estimates barely vary from preliminary figures published in *Statistics Weekly* on 6 June, but are reported here because many commercial contracts contain variation clauses which depend on the final estimates.

The increase in ordinary time earnings for full-time adult males was 1.4 per cent (to \$597.70) while full-time adult females had a higher increase of 2.2 per cent (to \$499.80).

In the year to February 1991, female earnings on this measure rose by 8.1 per cent, compared with the rise for males of 7.5 per cent. The higher percentage increase for females was repeated in average weekly total earnings for full-time adults, and in average weekly earnings for all employees.

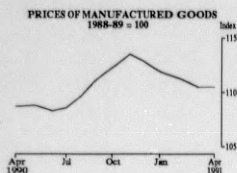
However, these gender differences are partly attributable to compositional changes in the workforce during the economic downturn in the period covered. It appears that female employees have been affected more than males by the compositional effects.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS  
FEBRUARY 1991  
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings

	Weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	November 1990	February 1991
New South Wales	617.80	509.90	580.90	2.3	7.4
Victoria	598.60	505.10	565.50	1.5	7.4
Queensland	553.40	467.30	525.30	-0.2	7.5
South Australia	571.50	492.00	546.30	1.7	8.8
Western Australia	606.60	490.50	566.20	1.9	8.8
Tasmania	563.30	472.60	537.20	1.1	4.4
Northern Territory	606.60	520.60	573.90	1.0	7.6
Australian Capital Territory	682.70	552.60	631.00	0.5	6.7
Australia	597.70	499.80	564.20	1.6	7.5

Average weekly total earnings (which includes overtime) for full-time adults increased by 1.2 per cent to \$597.80 during the quarter, which represents an annual increase of 7.0 per cent compared with February 1990.

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (6302.0), or contact Mick Atkinson (06) 252 6571.



## Lowest recorded annual rise in prices of manufactured goods ...

Prices of manufactured goods remained steady in April 1991 after four successive monthly declines.

There were small increases in nearly half of the items in the index. These increases were offset by price falls for about 20 per cent of the items, the main ones being scoured wool, meat, and refined petroleum products.

The All Manufacturing Industry Index rose by 1.7 per cent between April 1990 and April 1991. This is the smallest annual increase recorded since the index was first compiled in July 1969.

Variations in the rate of price change for different sectors of manufacturing are shown below.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, APRIL 1991  
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Chemical products	-0.3	5.4
Transport equipment	0.6	4.4
Fabricated metal products	0.7	3.7
Clothing and footwear	0.1	3.6
Other industrial machinery	0.1	2.3
Food and beverages	0.1	1.0
Petroleum products	-1.0	-3.7
Basic metal products	0.0	-4.9
Total manufacturing	0.0	1.7

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

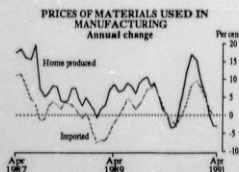
## ... and input prices still falling

The price indexes of materials used in manufacturing industries fell 1.3 per cent in April 1991, with prices for home produced materials falling 1.6 per cent and imported material prices falling 0.7 per cent.

The overall decrease was caused mainly by lower prices for home produced crude petroleum and agricultural products such as cattle and greasy wool. The main contributors to the fall in imported materials were chemicals and components for machinery and equipment — these were partly offset by increased prices for imported crude petroleum and condensates (reversing the falls recorded since late last year).

Over the year to April prices of manufacturing materials decreased by 1.9 per cent, with home produced materials falling by 3.1 per cent and imported materials increasing by 0.2 per cent.

*Continual ...*





The table below shows the impact of these price movements on imported and home produced materials.

**PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING  
APRIL 1991**

**Percentage change**

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	-0.7	0.2
Home produced	-1.6	-3.1
All manufacturing	-1.3	-1.9

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

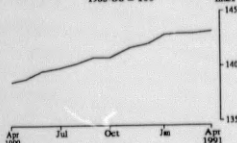
## Building materials prices subdued

Prices for materials used in house building increased by 0.1 per cent from March to April 1991, while prices for materials used in other than house building increased by 0.2 per cent.

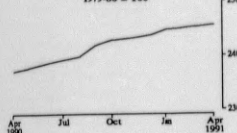
The recent downward trend in the annual rate of increase for building materials continued in April, with increases of 3.3 and 3.6 per cent for house and other building respectively.

The main increases in house building materials were for plaster and cupboards, while prices decreased for timber and ready mixed concrete. For materials used in building other than houses, the main price increases were for elevators and escalators, copper pipes and builders' hardware. The main decreases were for structural steel and ready mixed concrete.

**PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS  
1985-86 = 100**



**PRICES OF NON-DWELLING  
BUILDING MATERIALS  
1979-80 = 100**



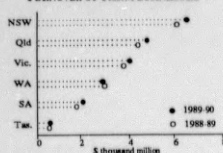
**PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, APRIL 1991  
Percentage change**

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.3	3.4	0.3	3.9
Melbourne	0.1	2.4	-0.1	3.7
Brisbane	0.2	5.4	0.4	2.8
Adelaide	0.5	3.5	0.1	3.4
Perth	-0.2	3.4	0.4	3.7
Hobart	1.0	4.4	0.5	2.9
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.1	3.3	0.2	3.6
Darwin	— Not available —		1.6	6.1
Canberra	0.3	3.8	0.5	4.9

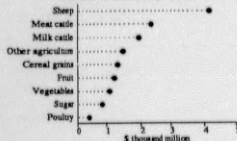
For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (6408.0) and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities* (6407.0), or contact Mark Dickson on (06) 252 6198.

## Farm survey showed turnover up but profit down in 1989-90

TURNOVER OF FARM BUSINESSES



TURNOVER OF FARM BUSINESSES  
For selected industries, 1989-90



The latest estimates from the Agricultural Finance Survey show that the turnover of farm businesses in 1989-90 was \$21.6 thousand million. This represents an increase of 6.7 per cent compared with 1988-89, the smallest increase since 1986-87 when the survey was reintroduced on a regular basis.

While turnover increased, the cash operating surplus, a measure of the profitability of farm businesses, fell 0.8 per cent to \$5.2 thousand million. However, this surplus remained 3.7 per cent higher than that recorded in 1987-88.

Compared with 1988-89, total net capital expenditure decreased by 4.4 per cent. At the same time, gross indebtedness increased by 10.4 per cent and interest paid by 25.9 per cent.

The component of turnover to show the greatest increase was the value of sales from crops, which increased by 10.5 per cent despite a big 13.4 per cent decline in turnover in the cereal grains industry. Increases were also recorded in sales from livestock products, and livestock, which increased by 5.1 per cent and 0.7 per cent respectively.

Industries to record substantial turnover increases were 'other agriculture', which includes the nursery and cotton industries (48.2%), meat cattle (18.8%), vegetables (18.6%), sugar (14.9%), milk cattle (13.0%) and fruit (11.7%).

SELECTED FINANCIAL AGGREGATES, 1989-90

	Value \$ thousand million	Percentage change	
		From 1988-89	From 1987-88
Sales from —			
Crops	7.7	10.5	18.7
Livestock	5.4	0.7	7.6
Livestock products	7.1	5.1	17.1
Turnover	21.6	6.7	15.7
Gross operating surplus	6.8	-21.8	-10.6
Cash operating surplus	5.2	-0.8	3.7
Total net capital expenditure	1.8	-4.4	12.8
Gross indebtedness	14.3	10.4	25.1
Interest paid	2.1	25.9	43.7

Large increases in cash operating surplus were recorded in 'other agriculture', fruit, vegetables, and sugar industries. The main falls were in cereal grains, sheep-meat cattle and sheep.

The States to record the largest percentage increases in turnover were South Australia (16.7%), and Queensland and Tasmania (both 9.6%). The only decrease was recorded in Western Australia, down 2.3 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Agricultural Industries Financial Statistics, Australia, Preliminary (7508.0)*, or contact Frank McCallum toll free on 008 030084.

## Statistics Weekly

### Synopsis of articles, June 1991

6 June 1991

#### Imports boost April deficit, but year-to-date figure well down

In seasonally adjusted terms, the current account deficit for April 1991 rose \$661 million to \$1,609 million. The current account deficit for the first ten months of 1990-91 was \$13,991 million, compared with \$19,276 million for the ten months to April 1990.

#### Economic activity remains flat in March quarter

Constant price gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.1 per cent in March quarter 1991 after seasonal adjustment, following a 0.3 per cent rise in the December quarter.

#### New motor vehicle registrations

Total new vehicle registrations increased by 0.9 per cent to 40,274 in April 1991 in original terms.

#### Foreign debt still rising, but servicing ratios improve

Net foreign liabilities at 31 March 1991 totalled \$177,337 million, an increase of \$5,068 million or 3 per cent on the position at the end of the December quarter.

#### Decline in stocks is arrested but manufacturers' sales fall

The level of stocks held by private businesses showed a marginal increase in the March quarter 1991 in seasonally adjusted constant price terms, following falls in the previous three quarters. Sales by manufacturing businesses however, declined between the December and March quarters.

#### Grocers produce slight lift for retail trade

Growth in retail turnover remains weak despite marginally improved figures for the first three months of 1991 in seasonally adjusted terms.

#### Manufacturing input costs continue their fall

The price indexes of materials used in manufacturing industries fell by 2.0 per cent in March 1991.

#### April housing approvals increase but trend is still down

Total dwelling unit approvals rose marginally (by 0.3%), in seasonally adjusted terms between March and April 1991 with the private sector house component rising by a stronger 4.4 per cent. The increases in April follow falls in both figures in the two previous months, and the trend for total dwelling units approved continued the decline which began in March 1989.

#### Weekly earnings rise influenced by lay-offs of lower paid staff

Preliminary estimates of average weekly ordinary time earnings increased by 1.6 per cent for full-time adults between November 1990 and February 1991. It appears that compositional changes in the work force continued to affect the estimates, albeit to a lesser degree than in the November 1990 quarter.

13 June 1991

#### New vehicle registrations rise in April, but trend still falling

In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations for April 1991 increased by 8.2 per cent from March 1991, associated with a rise of 0.9 per cent in unadjusted registrations. However, this increase was not sufficient to change the direction of the trend; the trend estimate for total registrations fell by 1.8 per cent in April, continuing the decline since April 1990.

#### Employment steadies as unemployment falls

A small rise in seasonally adjusted full-time employment in May 1991 halted the series of falls since December 1990. Overall however, employment declined, due to a fall in part-time employment. Falls were also recorded in the number of persons unemployed, and in the unemployment rate following four months of rises.

#### Oil prices lower import price index

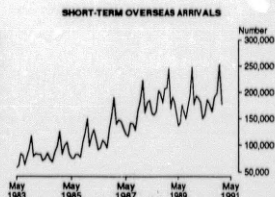
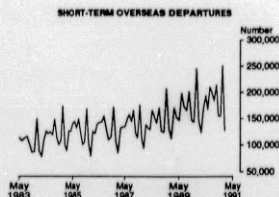
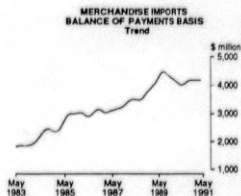
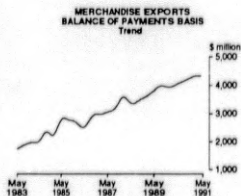
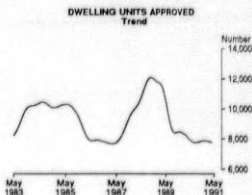
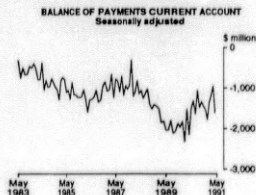
The Import Price Index fell by 0.8 per cent in the March quarter of 1991. The decrease was mainly due to falling world oil prices following the large increases during the previous quarter.

#### Road freight movement down

Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during March quarter 1991 was 4.1 per cent lower than in December quarter 1990.

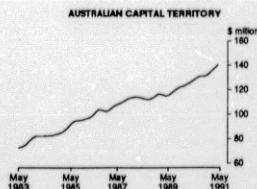
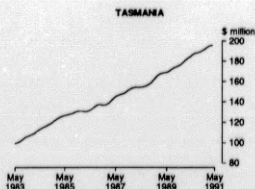
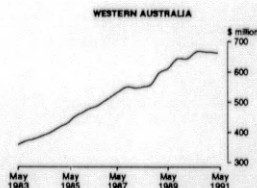
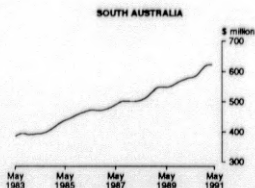
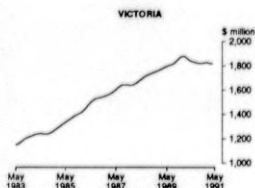
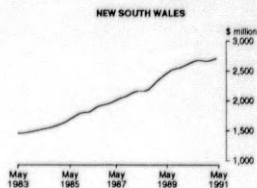
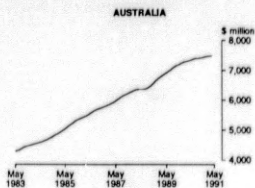
## Australian perspectives

*Australian perspectives* is the first in an occasional series of selected graphs illustrating the latest published national and State data.



## State perspectives

### Retail turnover trend series



## Synopsis of articles, June 1991 – continued

13 June 1991 continued  
from page i

### Higher fertility holds up population growth in 1990

The estimated resident population of Australia at 31 December 1990 was 17,210,800, an increase of 62,800 in the December quarter and 254,000 since December 1989. The national growth rate for the calendar year was 1.50 per cent, a small decrease from the 1.56 per cent growth rate for 1989. In 1990 natural increase contributed substantially more to population growth than net overseas migration, reversing the trend of the previous three years.

### First look at student/teacher ratios

Results from the 1990 Schools Census show that there were 3,041,657 full-time students attending school last July, with 2,193,347 (72%) in government schools and 848,310 (28%) attending non-government schools. For the first time, the ABS Schools publication contains tables on student/teaching staff ratios, and student/total school staff ratios. Student/teaching staff ratios ranged from 13.6 students per teacher in the Northern Territory to 16.3 in New South Wales, with the average across Australia being 15.3.

20 June 1991

### Industrial production slump eases

The constant price value of industrial production continued to decline in the March quarter 1991 in seasonally adjusted terms, by a slight 0.7 per cent, following larger falls in the three previous quarters.

### Production-based GDP declines further

Production-based gross domestic product (GDP(P)) fell for the fourth consecutive quarter in March 1991, declining by 0.6 per cent in seasonally adjusted constant price terms.

### Housing starts lowest since 1987

Total dwelling unit commencements declined in March 1991 for the third consecutive quarter, the lowest level of commencements since June quarter 1987.

### New survey measures Victorians' attitudes to the environment

Victorians are environmentally conscious. This was revealed by a survey of community participation in energy conservation carried out by the Victorian Office of the ABS in October 1990.

### Retail turnover slows

Trend estimates of turnover for retail and selected service establishments have weakened, due to a sharp fall in seasonally adjusted turnover in April.

### April livestock figures

April 1991 livestock slaughterings increased in all categories except sheep and pigs when compared with March 1991.

27 June 1991

### Home lending jumps in April as banks and Victoria bounce back

Seasonally adjusted housing finance commitments for April 1991 totalled \$2,002.4 million, an increase of 21.4 per cent on March 1991 and 29.0 per cent on April 1990.

### Manufacturing production down in May

Only five of the twenty-seven major indicators of production contained in *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* recorded higher levels of production volumes in May 1991 than in the same month last year.

### Major update of labour market trends

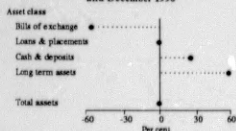
The latest annual edition of the major reference resource *Labour Statistics Australia* has been released, providing comprehensive time series data on the labour force to the year 1989. This 166-page publication presents a very detailed overview of the operations of the Australian labour market as well as international comparisons of the more important series.

### Wool leads export prices into biggest slump for 26 years

Export prices fell by 4.3 per cent between March and April 1991, bringing the annual decline in the year from April 1990 to 12.7 per cent. This was the largest annual decrease since April 1965. The major factor in the April decrease was the large drop in wool prices following the removal (in February) of the reserve price support scheme.



CHANGE IN ASSETS OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES  
Between quarters ended December 1989  
and December 1990



## New statistics show assets and liabilities of friendly societies

Recently the Australian Bureau of Statistics released for the first time statistics on the assets and liabilities of the fifteen largest friendly societies in Australia. This new quarterly publication supplements the already extensive ABS statistical coverage of the financial sector of the Australian economy.

The friendly societies surveyed are financial institutions mainly engaged in the sale of insurance bonds and are registered under the appropriate State legislation.

At the end of December 1990 total assets of the societies stood at \$6,950 million, an average of \$463 million per society. Most of the assets were held in interest bearing instruments \$6,385 million (91.9%), the balance \$564 million (8.1%) being held in other types of assets such as equities, units, property and other assets.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES  
DECEMBER 1990

	\$ million	Annual percentage change
<b>Assets —</b>		
Bills of exchange	889	- 56.3
Other short term securities	312	- 52.9
State and local government securities	1,607	121.3
Other long term securities	1,185	15.0
Other asset types	2,956	18.1
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>6,950</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>
<b>Liabilities —</b>		
Participants equity	6,574	- 0.8
Borrowings	1	- 83.3
Other liabilities	375	16.1
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,950</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>

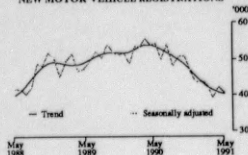
This being a new series, comparisons over time are available only over a limited period. As the table shows, however, there were some quite dramatic changes in the nature of the societies' asset portfolios in the year to December 1990.

The significant movement out of short term securities and into long term assets took place largely in the September quarter 1990, although holdings of State and local government securities again increased sharply (by about 24%) in the December quarter.

The liabilities of the friendly societies consist overwhelmingly of participants' equity. As at December 1990, total borrowings of the fifteen societies were just \$1 million.

For further information, order the publication *Assets and Liabilities of Friendly Societies: Australia (5660.0)*, or contact Jack Hyland on (06) 252 5384.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



## New vehicle registrations up but trend still down

Despite an increase of 11.0 per cent in unadjusted total new motor vehicle registrations in May 1991 to 44,723 vehicles, the corresponding seasonally adjusted estimates showed a 4.3 per cent decline.

While the trend estimate for May fell by 0.8 per cent, continuing the decline since April 1990, this was the smallest decline since the 3.7 per cent fall in December 1990. The fall in the May trend estimate followed declines of 1.7 per cent in April, 2.3 per cent in March, 3.0 per cent in February and 3.5 per cent in January 1991.

In unadjusted terms, new cars and station wagon registrations rose by 10.3 per cent to 35,159 vehicles, while other vehicles increased by 13.9 per cent to 9,564 vehicles.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

MAY 1991

Seasonally adjusted

Vehicle type	Number	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Motor cars and station wagons	32,305	-4.3	-25.0
Other vehicles	8,174	-4.6	-26.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,479</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>-25.4</b>

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia* (9301.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

## Divorce rate up marginally in 1990

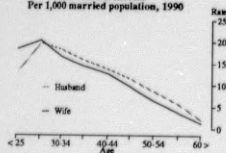
In 1990 there were 42,635 divorces granted throughout Australia, an increase of 3 per cent over 1989 (41,383). The crude divorce rate increased slightly from 2.46 per 1,000 population in 1989 to 2.50 in 1990.

The increase in the number of divorces recorded nationally occurred despite actual falls in the number of divorces granted in New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania and the two Territories. (Note that more than half of the divorces registered in the Australian Capital Territory involve residents of surrounding areas of New South Wales and Victoria.)

The overall divorce rate per 1,000 married population in 1990 was 10.9 compared with 10.6 in 1986 and 10.8 in 1989. Divorce rates were highest at ages 25-29 years for both males and females (19.7 per 1,000 married men and 20.3 per 1,000 married women in 1990). The higher rates for males for most age groups reflects the older age at marriage among men compared with women.

*Continued ...*

**DIVORCE RATES**  
Per 1,000 married population, 1990



The median age at divorce was 38.2 years for males and 35.3 years for females. The median age at marriage of divorcing males and females was 24.7 years, and 22.1 years respectively.

The median duration of marriage to divorce for all divorces was 10.1 years. However, the median duration of marriage for previously never married persons who were divorcing was 11.1 years for males and 11.0 years for females, while for those who remarried after a previous divorce, the median length of time that the marriage lasted was 7.3 years for males and 7.4 years for females. Of all the couples who married ten years ago, about 18 per cent of these marriages were estimated to have ended in divorce by 1990.

The proportion of men divorcing who had previously been divorced increased from 15.6 per cent in 1989 to 16.2 per cent in 1990. A similar trend was evident for women. In 1990 there were 15.3 per cent of women divorcing who were previously divorced compared with 14.7 per cent in 1989.

There were 44,913 dependent children of the 55.6 per cent of divorces which involved children, an average of 1.9 children per divorce.

For further information, order the publication *Divorces Australia* (3307.0), or contact Michael Nunn on (06) 252 6755.

## This week in brief ...

### ☐ Industrial disputes

In March 1991, the level of industrial disputes remained relatively low compared to the period September to November 1990. There were 107 industrial disputes identified as being in progress in March 1991, with 32,200 employees involved and the loss of 32,000 working days. This is a decrease of 27.1 per cent in working days lost since February 1991 (43,900).

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia, March 1991* (6321.0).

### ☐ Award coverage

A survey of 83,000 employees conducted in May 1990 found that 80.0 per cent of employees were covered by awards, determinations or collective agreements. Between May 1985 and May 1990 award coverage has fallen from 85.0 per cent. The largest changes occurred in the private sector with the award coverage rate for male employees falling from 75.6 per cent in May 1985 to 68.4 per cent in May 1990 and the award coverage rate for female employees falling from 82.8 per cent in May 1985 to 77.6 per cent in May 1990.

Source: *Award Coverage, Australia, May 1990* (6315.0).

### ☐ Cash management trusts

The weighted average net yield of cash management trusts decreased to 10.18 per cent for May 1991. The 90 day bank bill rate also fell to 10.35 per cent. The total assets of cash management trusts increased in value by \$73.4 million (1.4%) to \$5,238.4 million during May 1991. This was an increase of \$725.5 million (16.1%) on May 1990.

Source: *Cash Management Trusts, Australia, May 1991* (5635.0).

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

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### Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6104

## All the week's releases: 26 June to 2 July

### General

Statistics Weekly, 27 June 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)  
Time Series Service — Manual, March Qtr 1991 (Available on Magnetic Tape and Microfiche only) (1336.0)  
Australian Economic Indicators, June 1991 (1350.0; \$24.00)  
Regional Statistics, NSW, 1991 (1304.1; \$16.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, June 1991 (1305.1; \$13.50)  
Summary of Statistics — Vic., 1991 (1302.2; \$9.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., June 1991 (1303.2; \$10.00)  
Victoria at a Glance, 1991 (1305.2; \$1.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, June 1991 (1304.3; \$9.00)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, June 1991 (1305.5; \$10.00)  
Economic Indicators, WA, June 1991 (1307.5; \$5.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, June 1991 (1303.4; \$9.00)

### Demography

Divorces, Aust., 1990 (3307.0; \$11.50)

### Social statistics

Users' Guide to the National Health Survey, 1989-90 (4363.0; \$30.00)  
— new issue  
Schools, Vic., 1990 (4221.2; \$10.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Exports and Imports, Aust.: Trade with Selected Countries and Major Country Groups, March Qtr 1991 (5422.0; \$18.00)  
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., May 1991 (5635.0; \$4.50)  
Personal Finance, Aust., April 1991 (5642.0; \$5.50)  
Commercial Finance, Aust., April 1991 (5643.0; \$5.50)  
Public Unit Trusts, Aust., March Qtr 1991 (5645.0; \$9.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., February 1991 (6302.0; \$10.00)  
Award Coverage, Aust., May 1990 (6315.0; \$12.00)  
Industrial Disputes, Aust., March 1991 (6321.0; \$7.00)  
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., May 1991 (6354.0; \$11.50)  
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., April 1991 (6411.0; \$10.00)  
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., April 1991 (6412.0; \$10.00)

### Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., May 1991 (7215.0; \$7.00)  
Agricultural Industries Financial Statistics, Aust. 1989-90, Preliminary (7508.0; \$10.00)  
Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, April 1991 (7204.3; \$4.50)  
Principal Agricultural Commodities, SA, 1990-91, Preliminary (7111.4; \$10.00)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, April 1991 (8368.0; \$4.50)  
Engineering Construction Survey, Aust., March Qtr 1991 (8762.0; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, Vic., May 1991 (8731.2; \$10.00)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., April 1991 (8741.2; \$10.00)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, April 1991 (8741.5; \$10.00)  
Building Approvals, NT, May 1991 (8731.7; \$5.50)

### Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., May 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.00)

Corrigendum: Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., May 1991, Preliminary (9301.0)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., May 1991 (9303.2; \$10.00)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, May 1991 (9303.3; \$10.00)

Road Traffic Accidents, Qld, December Qtr 1990 (9405.3; \$10.00)  
— final issue

Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, April 1991 (9303.5; \$7.00)

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 16 July 1991

### July

- [3]** Building Approvals, Australia, May 1991 (8731.0; \$12.50)
- [5]** Balance of Payments, Australia, May 1991 (5301.0; \$15.00)
- [11]** The Labour Force, Australia, June 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)  
The Labour Force, Australia — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, June 1991 (6271.0; \$65.00)
- [15]** Retail Trade, Australia, May 1991 (8501.0; \$10.00)

## The latest ...

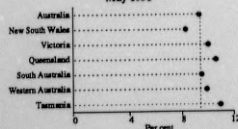
Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

2 July 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 90)*	-2.4	-28.6	-15.3	-11.7	2.8	39.0	n.a.	n.a.	-8.6
Retail turnover (Apr. 91) (trend estimate)	3.1	-1.8	4.0	7.6	1.6	6.8	n.a.	10.9	2.3
New motor vehicle registrations (May 91)†	-43.6	-26.9	-28.3	-12.6	-19.6	-24.0	-6.7	19.3	-30.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Apr. 91)	-1.3	-12.1	16.1	3.6	14.1	10.7	-26.8	-13.8	2.7
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 90)	2.5	-11.1	-23.0	9.6	-25.5	-24.7	11.4	5.3	-8.5
Employed persons (May 91)*	0.0	-5.9	-2.5	-1.0	-0.4	-3.9	-2.1	-0.1	-2.3
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 90)	4.7	5.3	4.8	6.0	3.9	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.9
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 91)	7.4	7.4	7.5	8.8	8.8	4.4	7.6	6.7	7.5
Population (Dec. 90)	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 90)	-2.3	0.9	8.0	-0.7	0.3	29.3	32.8	4.6	2.8

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
Seasonally adjusted  
May 1991





## Key national indicators – consolidated to 2 July 1991

			Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	91,167	95,056	-0.4	1.0
	— 1984-85 prices			61,293	64,415	0.1	-1.5
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	5,736	6,463	-2.9	-11.6
	— 1984-85 prices			4,334	4,880	-3.4	-11.5
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Jun. 91	7,300	n.a.	n.a.	-10.4
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Apr. 91	7,102.7	7,350.5	-2.9	-0.3
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	14,284.8	15,243.0	0.4	-1.3
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	May 91	41,372	37,561	-11.2	-30.7
Dwelling unit approvals (e)		"	Apr. 91	10,045	10,241	0.3	-6.9
Value of all building approvals (e)		\$m	"	1,516	1,484	-8.6	-26.4
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 90	7,391	7,069	0.5	-8.5
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,654	4,452	0.1	-10.9
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	31,937	34,424	-1.9	-4.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	22,162	23,833	1.5	-7.0
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to June 91	34,850	n.a.	n.a.	-6.2
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons		'000	May 91	7,738.9	7,715.0	-0.1	-2.3
Unemployment rate †		%	"	9.5	9.4	-0.4	3.0
Participation rate †		"	"	63.5	63.2	-0.4	-0.5
Job vacancies		'000	May 91	25.1	25.7	-13.4	-49.8
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.1	1.1	-5.9	-18.8
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 90	214.1	n.a.	-0.2	4.9
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Apr. 91	117.6	n.a.	-1.3	-1.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		Apr. 91	110.5	n.a.	0.0	1.7
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Mar. qtr 91	2,266	2,762	-29.1	-32.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Feb. 91	564.20	n.a.	1.6	7.5
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	May 91	10.35	n.a.	-0.95	-4.65
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	"	10.75	n.a.	-0.25	-2.75
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Apr. 91	4,299	4,160	-7.1	0.8
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,040	4,227	9.5	3.3
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	259	-67	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-71	-408	n.a.	-49.5
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,246	-1,609	-69.7	-7.1
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 91	n.a.	98.9	-3.3	-6.5
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Mar. 91	133,491	n.a.	2.6	3.2
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	177,337	n.a.	2.9	6.7
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
SUS	per \$A		Apr. 91	0.7798	n.a.	1.0	2.1
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	59.6	n.a.	2.4	-1.7
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		Dec. 90	17.2	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals (f)	'000		Jan. 91	177	190	7.7	4.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 3 July 1991. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 4 July 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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